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Issue 18
October 2014

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or search for

CSUSB Veterans Success Center

The Veterans Success Center Receives President's Team Award



On Sept. 22, Jaime Espinoza and Marci Daniels of the Cal State San Bernardino Veterans Success Center were awarded the President's Staff Award: Team Achievement during Convocation. In addition to Jaime and Marci, several members from the Palm Desert Campus including Jesse Neimeyer-Romero, Professor Dennis Larney, Regina Garrison, Dr. Doris Wilson, Michael Singer, Dr. Dennis Maynard, two students Charles Carter and Kenneth Jacobs, the VSC's

volunteer Darcie Tossetti and Brent Hunter, the development officer from the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, were also recognized. The award is designed to encourage, recognize and reward employees for involvement and participation in a specific project, initiative, or event by a team (department or division).

Over the course of the past six months, a team comprised of faculty, staff, students and administrators from both CSUSB campuses and representing eight departments worked tirelessly to carry out a Memorial Day Observance and establish a VSC at the Palm Desert Campus. The establishment of the PDC VSC will no doubt have a significant impact on advancing departmental and university goals of being one university with two campuses and a premier military friendly institution, which serves veterans in the greater Coachella Valley.

The team's efforts resulted in raising \$14,890 in seed money, identifying space for the VSC (in the Health Sciences Building, Room 105) on a campus where space is at a premium, procuring furniture, military flags and other items for the center, carrying out PDC's first military event, creating a Veterans View Book that features resources and pictures from both campuses, the successful marketing of the event and engagement of the Coachella Valley community members in carrying out military elements and attending the observance is a remarkable illustration of what a committed team can achieve in an incredibly short period of time. The grand opening of the PDC VSC will be held on Nov. 10, 2014 from 2 to 4 p.m. For more information call (909)537-5195.

News from Melissa McQuead, Your Certifying Official

It is hard to believe that another academic year is upon us. I hope all of you had a wonderful summer and are ready to begin your fall quarter feeling refreshed and renewed!

Many of you have already taken the steps necessary to keep your VA educational benefits going. However, some of you may need to be reminded of what to do.

If you wish to continue receiving benefits under any of these programs: Chapter 30, Chapter 33, Chapter 35, Chapter 1606 or Chapter 1607, you will need to fill out a new "statement of responsibility" form. You may request this form from me via e-mail at mmcquead@csusb.edu, by phone at 909-537-5213, or download the form at <http://rre.csusb.edu> under Veteran Certification. You are always welcome to come in person to UH-171 to request it as well.

Those individuals who receive benefits under Chapter 31 or who receive the Cal Vet Fee Waiver do not have to turn in a "statement of responsibility" form.

Everyone else can return the completed form to me via e-mail, fax to 909-537-7064 or turn it in at the Information Counter in UH-171.

Please remember to let me know any time you increase or decrease your units or completely withdraw from the quarter. You also need to let me know if your major changes.

For those students who received the Cal Vet Fee Waiver for the previous academic year of 2013/2014, you will have to reapply at any county Veterans Service office in order to receive a waiver for the 2014/2015 academic year. It will waive your tuition and you will be responsible for paying the

mandatory campus fees. REMEMBER: Your waiver is valid only for one academic year at a time. You must reestablish eligibility for each subsequent academic year you plan on attending school. You must meet the California residency requirements of your school in order to receive this benefit. Please make sure you have been approved for your waiver by the due date for tuition and fees.

Thank you for your service!



SVO Opportunity Drawing



The Student Veterans Organization is under new leadership with Richard "Ben" Shepard leading the charge. The SVO's first initiative was to raise money through an opportunity drawing with a new Kindle Fire as the grand prize. The winner was drawn and announced at our campus' annual Late Night with Rec Sports. We are excited to have held a successful fund-raising event. The club has planned many other campus and community engagement events for this academic year. If you are interested in joining, or would just like more information on our organization, feel free to contact Ben at r.shepard@yahoo.com or Ken Jacobs at jacok301@coyote.csusb.edu.

STUDENT VETERANS ORGANIZATION
AT
CSUSB

Halloween Resource Fair At the Veterans Success Center...

*There's a full moon tonight,
The pirates come out and play.
Black cats and bats are all over the night.
Come to the Veterans Success Center
and receive all your campus resources in
sight. So mark it in your calendars today!*

Thursday, October 30, 2014

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

*Where: Veterans Success Center
LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED!*

The Battle Has Begun, Are You Prepared?



POW'S Report



*Academic
Advising*



G.I. Bill



*Work Ability
gr*



Financial Aid



Career Center



*Volunteer
Opportunities*

The Life and Journey Behind the Soldier

Cindy Nouredine, Guest Columnist

There's not a man or woman who stands to serve our country that is without a person who will be affected by their orders of duty. Lives are changed when loved ones are gone, hurt or transitioned. It changes overnight when a mother of a young child and wife of an officer in the U.S. Army is deployed overseas. She becomes a single parent with double roles as the mother and the father. Among the many caps she wears are "teacher" as their child learns to walk, talk or self-feed, as "cop" when she must discipline, as "medic" when her child is injured, or as "therapist" when clarity and reassurance are needed. The cap she wears when alone at night is the hardest, wondering if she can make it through the next 11 months.

The responsibility of being a mother is most definitely capitalized. The function of the everyday obligations to pay the bills, put food on the table, and create a feasible structure to the household is never undermined. She understands the role, she has accepted the lifestyle, however, when it comes

to the matter of the heart...emotions will surface, and it's a whole new challenge.

It's inevitable that there will be moments, time and time again, when she will feel lonely, frustrated and insecure. It is not uncommon to have these emotions, and it's also natural to first surrender to the person closest to you for comfort, such as your spouse, parent, sibling or a friend, but when that person is not there, it takes a deep strength to overcome those emotions on your own. This is what happens to those separated from the people they care about as they go off to battle. It's absolutely not just the shift of not having them co-parent with you, but it's the shift of all the different roles and parts they have played in your life while they were present. They're able to hold you to comfort you, they can laugh with you, and they encourage you and give you high fives. And then there's that irreplaceable human contact of just having their presence. Nothing beats having the person you love at home, where they belong. You

just hope and pray for the day they safely return home to be soon.

The military lifestyle provides a stable income, healthcare benefits and security to the country. But the future is constantly uncertain. The future of a family is unknown. It's a shivering thought to know that your loved one may or may not make it home from overseas. It's unsettling to not know where your next job or home will be. The lifestyle is stable yet unstable, and that is what each of us face in today's society as we stand behind and support our soldier and veterans. To lead a balanced life that is unbalanced is a constant jungle. It's an endless cycle that gives momentum yet perpetuates perturbation. To acknowledge and shed light on this subject helps those going through this feel less alone. It keeps them fighting as ONE alongside the one on the front line. For more information, please visit www.militaryonesource.mil.



Cindy Nouredine was born in Vietnam and at the age of 3 moved to Monterey Park, Calif.. She's the middle child with an older sister and a younger brother. In 2000, she earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with an emphasis in human resources management at California State University, Los Angeles. Since graduating, she's done everything from being a receptionist, recruiter to assisting top executives and presidents of large corporations. She discovered in 2010 that her real passion and goal is to be an entrepreneur. She tested those waters and succeeded in making and customizing gift baskets for the holidays. But after meeting and marrying her husband, who is a veteran and an officer in the U.S Army, her lifestyle challenged the security and stabilities of continuing to run the business due to moving and transitioning every couple of years. They are currently settled in La Verne, California raising their 3-year-old son. Mrs. Nouredine has embarked into the world of journalism and writing. She freelances for multiple local newspapers in the cities around the Los Angeles County.



Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project *David Briggs, Guest Columnist*



The Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project's (IRAP) mission is to organize law students and lawyers to develop and enforce a system of legal and human rights for refugees, through a combination of direct *pro bono* legal aid and broad

policy advocacy. IRAP is the only organization that provides comprehensive legal representation to refugees seeking resettlement" (refugeerights.org).

David Briggs, CSUSB Class of 2014 and U.S. Army veteran, recently read about IRAP and decided to help. "Personally, I worry about the Afghans I know from my deployment. Those who worked for the government, worked with U.S. forces, or even visited the base made themselves targets. Reduced American presence puts them at risk and may force some to become refugees. In my opinion, if anyone becomes a refugee because they helped the U.S. we have an obligation to help them find safe refuge."

Help support IRAP with a small donation at the following link.
fundly.com/david-briggs-help-persecuted-iraqis-and-afghans-who-helped-the-u-s



- Jaime Espinoza, ASA II

Welcome back to school Coyotes! I want to make you aware of a resource available to all CSUSB students. The resource is called orgsync.com.

OrgSync connects students to organizations, departments, and programs. The Web-hosted platform creates an online community for our campus, and helps units across our institution improve communication, information sharing, collaboration and reporting with an online tool students want to use.

Directions

Go to www.orgsync.com and sign-in using your Coyote ID under California State University, San Bernardino.

Click on the "Veterans Success Center" link on the left hand side. You are now registered!

Graduating Student Veterans, Order Your Graduation Stole Today

Call the Veterans Success Center at (909)537-7196 or e-mail Jaime Espinoza at jespinoza@csusb.edu to receive your free graduation stole.

Make sure to include your full name, email address, phone number, and branch of service.



The Veterans Gradation Celebration will be held on December 5, 2014, at 5 p.m.— 7 p.m. in the Obershaw Dining Room. Dinner will be provided.

If you have a GPA of 3.0 or higher you qualify for the S.A.L.U.T.E Honor Society. Applications are available at the VSC or contact Jaime Espinoza at (909) 537-7196 or e-mail at jespinoza@csusb.edu.

James Castro
U.S. Army Veteran



Getting out of the Army in 2009 after 15 years, I didn't have many options to earn money. After unemployment ran out, I was stuck in a society that was going through an economic downturn and a recession. I acquired menial jobs here and there until I finally realized that I was going nowhere. That's when I

decided to use my Montgomery GI Bill Chapter 30 and go to college. I started at Riverside City College and received an Associate's Degree in social behavioral studies in spring of 2014. I decided to transfer to CSUSB to complete the sociology/social service track. I have always wanted to get an education and now I'm fulfilling my dream thanks to the VA programs and my will to succeed, which I learned in the military. My goal is to work with combat veterans that are having a difficult time reintegrating back into society.

Eduardo Verdugo
California Army National Guard



I enlisted in the National Guard and not the active guard component due to school. The ROTC program and the school's affiliation with the military was the primary reason that I chose CSUSB. I wanted to attend college as a way to better educate myself and influence the lives of teenage minorities; my physics teacher in high school opened our

eyes to a world with an unfair school system, one he urged us to help change so anyone can truly be anything. I am pursuing a degree in physics and hope to be a teacher at a later time, I wish to get a Ph.D. in astro physics sometime in the future: however, in the direct future following my graduation, I wish to continue my career in the military as a commissioned officer and will do so for as long as my service is needed.

Laura Gonzalez
U.S. Navy Veteran



A chief once told me right after he got pinned, "In all the years in my Navy career the best advice I can pass down to you is, "Knowledge is power." I believe that very much. That is one of the reasons I want to go as far as I can with my education. Another reason I chose to go to college after the service is because I want my

family to be proud of me and I want to be a good example to my brothers and sisters. I'm the second oldest of seven kids and I'm the first in my family to go to college. I want knowledge and I want power, but I want to use it to help others and make a difference, which is why I chose to study in the field of social work. Right now, I'm a junior working towards my bachelor's in social work. Eventually I hope to get my MSW (masters of social work) as well. I am very grateful that my prior military service has given me the opportunity to do this.

Stephanie Reilly
U.S. Navy Reserves



Why did I join the military? The simple answer is to help make a change. Because of the military, I can go to school easier. My major for school is history with an emphasis on continuing education. But why did I decide to go to and continue college? It goes back to why I joined the military. To help change the world. When I

get my B.A. this spring, I will be applying for the National Security Studies program at CSUSB. This program has an emphasis in intelligence and anti-terrorism. I am already an IS in the Navy and with this degree I can become an effective intelligence officer for the Navy and help make a difference.